

SENATOR BAACK: Yes, Mr. President and members, I also rise in opposition to Senator Lamb's amendment to the amendment. I think that Senator Withem has done an excellent job of explaining the situation that we are in. I do not agree...disagree with Senator Lamb when he says that we do have a property tax problem out there. But I think, as Senator Withem has pointed out, as a practical matter the idea of a sunset in there is not what is going to make us reconsider on how we fund technical community colleges. I think we can do that today, we could decide today to fund technical community colleges out of General Fund. If that was our desire, we can do that today. The sunset serves absolutely no useful purpose in this bill...in this legislation anymore. And, with that, I would simply urge you to defeat the Lamb amendment and then go ahead and put the amendment on by Senator Warner and continue to support the bill. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Thank you. Senator Marsh, please.

SENATOR MARSH: I move the previous question.

PRESIDENT: I believe you are the last one, but thank you anyway. Senator Lamb, would you like to close, please.

SENATOR LAMB: Yes, Mr. President, members. What I'm hearing my colleagues say here is that, as I interpret it, is that we are really not serious about property tax relief, we are not serious about it. And I object to that. I think we should continue to work in that direction. Now we have sunsets on various things in this body, and I'll agree, they get extended, they get extended for one reason or another. That doesn't mean they should go away, and that doesn't mean they do go away for other issues. Now I don't see this as being any different. We had a sunset on a bill yesterday or the day before, and they said this is the solution to the problem because we can look at it in a year or two and we've got to do something specific to either change the sunset or change the bill and that is what it does. It is a prod, it's a cattle prod. It's a prod for this Legislature to say, hey, let's wait a minute, let's look at this seriously again and see if we can arrive at a solution. This is a prod that the Legislature needs, and this is somewhat of a safeguard that the people out there need that the Legislature will continue to look at the problem. It doesn't hurt anything to just extend that sunset. Extend the sunset. Don't remove the sunset. I ask that you adopt the amendment.